

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-142 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner found that there are allegedly two distinct inventions in the above-identified patent application and required restriction to one of those inventions, as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-117, drawn to a "container, classified in class 222, subclass 566"; and

Group II: Claims 118-142, drawn to a "method of controlling a continuous flow of a liquid, classified in class 222, subclass 1."

The Examiner has also found that there are allegedly eleven distinct species in the above-identified patent application and required election of one of those species, as follows:

Species A: FIGS. 1-3C;
Species B: FIGS. 4-8;
Species C: FIGS. 9-37;
Species D: FIGS. 38-41;
Species E: FIGS. 42-49;
Species F: FIGS. 50-53;
Species G: FIGS. 54-61;
Species H: FIGS. 62-65;
Species I: FIGS. 66-68;
Species J: FIGS. 69-76; and
Species K: FIGS. 77-78.

The Examiner states that, currently, no claim is generic.

Applicants' Elections

Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, for examination in this application, the invention of Group I (claims 1-117).

Furthermore, applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, for initial substantive examination in this application, Species C (FIGS. 9-37). Claims 1-5, 8-11, 17-30, 33-36, 42-51, 54-65, 68-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117 read on the elected species.

The Examiner has taken the position that no claim is currently generic. Applicants believe that claims 1-3, 8, 21-28, 33, 46-50, 55-63, 68-79, 81-87, 89-91, 93, 94, 96-102, 104-106, and 113-117 are generic to elected species C and non-elected species A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J.

Applicants also believe that claims 4, 5, 9, 29, 30, 34, 64, 65, and 108-110 are generic to elected species C and non-elected species A, B, D, E, F, and G.

Applicants also believe that claims 17-20, 42-45, 54, 92, and 107 are generic to elected species C and non-elected species A, B, D, and E.

Applicants also believe that claims 10, 11, 35, 36, 51, and 80 are generic to elected species C and non-elected species A, B, F, G, H, I, and J.

Applicants also believe that claims 14-16, 39-41, 52, and 95 are generic to non-elected species D and E.

Applicants also believe that claims 12, 13, 37, 38, 53, 88, and 103 are generic to non-elected species F, G, H, I, and J.

Applicants also believe that claims 6, 7, 31, 32, 66, 67, 111, and 112 are generic to non-elected species H, I, and J.

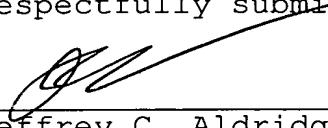
Applicants understand that if a generic claim is allowed, a reasonable number of non-elected species, and all claims that read thereon, will be rejoined to the application.

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Reply to Office Action of February 16, 2006

Conclusion

Applicants have elected for examination a single invention and a single species of the claimed invention as required by the Examiner. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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